

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/025,531

Examiner

Amir Alavi

Applicant(s)

ESTEVEZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The correspondence of 30 March 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 20050506.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments, see page 3, lines 5-13, filed 30 March 2006, with respect to claims 1-3 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

- Applicant's election of Group I in the reply filed on 28 March 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
- This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 4-5 directed to Group II non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 4-5 have been cancelled.
- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- The application has been amended as follows: claims 4-5 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method of image compression. The closest prior art, MacCormack et al. (USPN 6,006,276), shows a similar system, in which, a video image data field to be compression encoded is divided into rectangular blocks, each of the rectangular blocks is compared with a corresponding block of a reference image to generate comparison data, the block of the image to be encoded is selected for representation if the comparison data for the block meets a selection criterion. The comparison data is generated on the basis of coefficients formed by applying an orthogonal transform to the blocks of the reference image and to the blocks of the image to be encoded, mapping data is generated which is indicative of locations in the image plane corresponding to the selected blocks, the image to be encoded is represented in compressed form by header data, the mapping data and image data representative of the selected blocks. When the reference image is compression encoded, the blocks may be expanded in areas of the reference image which correspond to a low information density.

However, MacCormack et al. fail to address: "for comparing blocks of pixels in a strip of blocks in an input image to corresponding blocks of pixels in a corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image with said strip including an entire row of blocks and encoding said strip of blocks of an input image as said corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image when said comparing indicates said strip approximates said corresponding strip". These distinct features have been added to the sole independent claim and renders it allowable.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Bella C. Matthew can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

